

Application Number 10/693,006
Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A medical device programmer comprising a first housing member, a second housing member, and a plate member attached to the second housing member, wherein the plate member includes a transparent area that exposes a display for viewing, and the plate member is printed with information to identify a programmer type associated with the medical device neurostimulator programmer.

Claim 2 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed to include personalization information to identify a patient.

Claim 3 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed to include personalization information to identify a clinic.

Claim 4 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed with graphic information.

Claim 5 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is printed with text information.

Claim 6 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the plate member is molded to define one or more apertures to accommodate buttons extending outward from the programmer.

Claim 7 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the second housing member defines an aperture for access to a software loading port, the plate member being sized to cover the aperture upon placement of the plate member on the second housing member.

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Claim 8 (Original): The programmer of claim 7, wherein the software loading port is a JTAG port.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the programmer is a neurostimulator programmer, wherein the plate member is selected from one of a plurality of plate members having different configurations based on a match between the configuration of the plate member and a type of neurostimulator programmer being assembled.

Claim 10 (Original): The programmer of claim 9, wherein the plate member configuration comprises a size, a shape, a printed graphic, and a number of apertures to accommodate input buttons extending outward from the programmer.

Claim 11 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, further comprising an infrared interface to receive changes to software executed by a processor within the programmer during an infrared communication session.

Claim 12 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, further comprising power control circuitry to reduce input voltage to a predetermined level to minimize noise levels within the programmer.

Claim 13 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

Claim 14 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, further comprising a first circuit board and a second circuit board substantially enclosed within the first housing member and the second housing member.

Claim 15 (Original): The programmer of claim 14, wherein the first circuit board includes telemetry circuitry and the second circuit board includes the display and display circuitry.

Claim 16 (Original): The programmer of claim 15, wherein the second circuit board includes control circuitry to drive the telemetry circuitry and the display circuitry.

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Claim 17 (Original): The programmer of claim 15, wherein the first circuit board includes an internal antenna.

Claim 18 (Original): A method for assembling a programmer for a medical device, the method comprising:

enclosing a first circuit board and a second circuit board within a first housing member and a second housing member;

selecting a plate member from one of a plurality of plate members having different configurations based on a match between a configuration of the plate member and a type of programmer being assembled; and

placing the plate member within the second housing member of the programmer.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member includes a transparent area that exposes a display for viewing.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member is printed with information to identify the programmer type.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a shape to match the type of programmer.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a size to match the type of programmer.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a printed graphic to match the type of programmer.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises printed text to match the type of programmer.

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Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the plate member comprises a plurality of apertures to accommodate a plurality of input buttons extending outward from the programmer.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the plate member comprises no apertures.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the second housing member defines an aperture for access to a software loading port, the method further comprising:

loading instructions into memory on one of the first and second circuit boards via the loading port; and

placing the plate member to cover the aperture.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein the software loading port is a JTAG port.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 27, further comprising selecting the instructions based on one of a plurality of different functional sets desired for the programmer.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising assembling the components of the programmer using a z-axis technique by which the components are stacked on top of one another.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising coupling an external antenna to the programmer via a cable.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising mounting a display on a side of the second circuit board opposite the first circuit board.

Claim 33 (New): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the medical device programmer is a programmer for an implantable neurostimulator.

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Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the medical device programmer is a programmer for an implantable neurostimulator.